

May 22, 1978

TO: CHR Records

FROM: J. E. Farnham

SUBJECT: Disinterment of , 40-015

I called Mr. Davis on May 8, 1978 to inquire if he had received the letter from P. E. Neal, and if the officials at the Holy Sepulchre were now satisfied. Mr. Davis said he had received the letter and had contacted the cemetery. The superintendent of the cemetery would call Mr. Davis when a disinterment date was established and Mr. Davis in turn would call me. Mr. Davis further stated that the cemetery required payment before the disinterment.

At 10:20 A.M. on May 12, 1978 I received a phone call from Mr. Davis who stated that the disinterment was scheduled for 8:00 A.M. of Thursday, May 18, 1978. He also said the cemetery requested payment be made 2 days in advance of the disinterment. I asked Mr. Davis to give the cemetery his check for \$300.00 and told him I would bring a reimbursement check with me on Thursday.

Further discussion evolved around details of the disinterment and the fact that the cemetery now stated that Mr. was buried in a steel vault. We decided to 1) have the cemetery crew remove the steel vault from the grave, 2) have the Vault Company transport the vault to their facilities and then open the vault, 3) Mr. Davis and I would transfer the remains into a Ziegler case for shipment back to Argonne, 4) the Vault Company would store the vault until we were ready to reuse at the time of reinterment, and 5) I would ship a Ziegler case to Mr. Davis. The Vault Company charges were set at \$35.00 for the first hour and \$25.00 for each additional hour plus a small fee for storage. Mr. Davis agreed to pay these expenses and I agreed to reimburse him upon receipt of an itemized bill.

In the late evening of Wednesday, May 17, 1978 Dr. Schlenker and I visited the grave site. Photographs were taken to illustrate the general terrain, the condition of the grave, and the condition and position of the headstone. We returned to the grave site for the disinterment on the following morning. At the site we met Mr. Davis and Mr. Harris of the Paul W. Harris Funeral Home. The cemetery crew had opened the grave and removed the steel vault. Photographs were taken of the opened grave and the headstone.

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It was immediately noted that the opened grave was at the side of the double headstone marked 1885-1914. Mr. [redacted] superintendent of the cemetery, offered his explanation; 1) a husband and wife are customarily placed with the wife at his left side (the same as when they were at the altar at marriage, 2) probing the graves showed a steel vault only at [redacted] side, 3) the records indicated [redacted] was not buried in a vault, and 4) the headstone was obviously in error.

After a slight mix-up with the vault company, which Mr. [redacted] quickly and simply cleared up, the steel vault was loaded onto a truck and transported to the facilities of the Wilbert Vault Company. The warehouse of the Wilbert Vault Company was located in Fairport, N. Y. There, vault company personnel removed the domed steel cover of the vault. A rusted metal casket lay within. Affixed to the casket cover was an engraved name plate with the inscription [redacted]. This plate and the skeletal remains of Mr. [redacted] were removed by Dr. Schlenker and I and placed into a Ziegler case for shipment back to Argonne.

Mr. Davis' assistant sealed the Ziegler case which we then loaded into a station wagon for transportation to the American Airlines Freight Office. The uniform air bill number was [redacted], and was shipped collect to the Markiewicz Funeral Home in Lemont, Illinois. I asked that the O'Hare airlines representative call Mr. Markiewicz upon arrival of the Ziegler case.

Mr. Markiewicz picked up the Ziegler case containing the remains of Mr. [redacted] from O'Hare on Thursday evening and delivered it to me here at Argonne. He also gave me the transit permit and transit label. He will bill me for the C.O.D. shipping charges and his pick-up and delivery fee.

JEF:llf

cc: R. A. Schlenker
G. J. Hamilton

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